TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

January 22, 2004 LB 602

that life begins at conception, and I'm against abortion, but when the life is over then I don't have a problem with using the cells for research. This is a different situation. We're now talking about creating human life in order to then destroy it and use the cells for research. There's been some phony distinction here. It doesn't matter whether you do it the old-fashioned way or the new-fashioned way. Eventually you arrive at the point where you have an embryo. That's why we have stem cells to do something with, because there's a human being there growing and developing. Production of stem cells is part of that. So whether it's the old-fashioned way or the new-fashioned way, the question before you is, is it okay to...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR MAXWELL: ...create that human life and destroy it for medical research? I urge you not to take that step. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Erdman, on the motion to recommit to committee.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I again rise in opposition to Senator Chambers' motion to recommit. And also would agree that I believe the discussion substantially increased as far as the level of what we're talking about. I think that's of value for the citizens who are watching this, and I think it will prove to be valuable in the decisions we make. Senator Hartnett hasn't left yet, and so I'll have some additional information for him as well, because he asked a question that I actually have an answer to. But I did want to respond to Senator Johnson's question about, if the university is already doing this, then why do we need to do this? Well, again, remember, the university did not come in and oppose the bill. They're neutral, which would lead me to believe that they're not doing this at the Med Center. Now, Senator Johnson has also spoken before about being an advocate for the Med Center and the research there, and I have no inclination to believe that Senator Johnson knows of any other researcher at the university that is doing anything other than their policy. So the question is the future. What do we do,